

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**MAY 18, 2000**

|   |   |                            |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| <b>IN RE:</b>                                   | ) |                            |
|   | ) |                            |
| <b>IN THE MATTER OF THE INTERCONNECTION</b>     | ) | <b>DOCKET NO. 00-00079</b> |
| <b>AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN</b>           | ) |                            |
| <b>AT&amp;T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTH</b>     | ) |                            |
| <b>CENTRAL STATES, INC., TCG MIDSOUTH INC.,</b> | ) |                            |
| <b>AND BELL SOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS,</b>       | ) |                            |
| <b>INC., PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252.</b>       | ) |                            |

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**ORDER ACCEPTING ARBITRATION,  
APPOINTING PRE-ARBITRATION OFFICER  
AND DIRECTING MEDIATION**

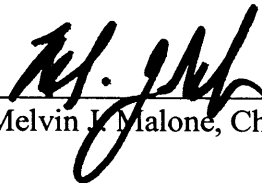
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This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") at the March 14, 2000 Authority Conference upon the petition of AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. ("AT&T") and TCG MidSouth, Inc. ("TCG") for arbitration of an interconnection agreement with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") pursuant to Section 252 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Petition").

AT&T and TCG filed the Petition on February 4, 2000, and BellSouth responded on February 29, 2000. At the March 14, 2000 Authority Conference, the Directors voted unanimously to accept the Petition for arbitration, appoint the Directors as Arbitrators and General Counsel or his designee as the Pre-Arbitration Officer, and direct the parties to participate in substantive mediation discussions.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

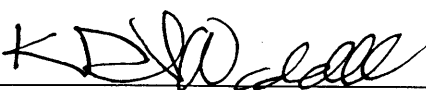
1. The petition of AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. and TCG MidSouth, Inc. for arbitration of an interconnection agreement with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. pursuant to Section 252 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 is accepted;
2. The Directors shall serve as Arbitrators;
3. General Counsel or his designee is appointed to serve as the Pre-Arbitration Officer;
4. The parties are directed to enter into substantive mediation discussions at the direction of the Pre-Arbitration Officer and each party shall have a representative at the mediation with the authority to make any decisions necessary to resolve the remaining issues; and
5. Any party aggrieved with the Authority's decision in this matter may file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Authority within fifteen (15) days from and after the date of this Order.

  
Melvin J. Malone, Chairman

  
H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director

  
Sara Kyle, Director

ATTEST:

  
K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary